has to be a minimum gap of one term of two years. The above decision was communicated to all EPCs in February, 1993 suggesting that their Articles of Association may be suitably amended, if considered necessary. The question of relaxation of tenure of Chairmen of EPCs and FIEO by the Government does not arise.

Public Sector Unit in Mica Industry

1756. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the period and the circumstances to establish public sector unit in Mica industry, MITCO;

(b) the pay scales of the productive and supporting workers there at the start and subsequent change in 1975, 1980, 1985 and 1990 and at present given the total emoluments of each principal category of workers in these years; and

(c) whether the need led to the birth of MITCO has ended now leading to its winding up and if not, the steps taken to develop MITCO?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) MITCO was carved out of MMTC in June, 1974 as a Canalising Agency for export of Mica.

(b) Prior to 17-1-1984 MITCO workers were being paid according to prevailing Minimum Wages Act of respective states Thereafter time-scales were introduced. Details of Pay Scales of productive and supporting workers is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Due to decline in its performance, MITCO has been declared sick in terms of Sick Industrial Compaines Act (special amendment 1985) by BIFR. Various options for revival of MITCO including its merger with MMTC are under consideration.

Statement

Pay Scales of productive and Supporting workers of Public Sector Units in Mica Industry during 1993-94

	Pay Scales effective from 17-1-84	Total emoluments of workers at minimum of Scale in the month of October	
	In Rs./ months 1985	1990	1994
Category II	210–245	508.09	1001.41	1925.96
Category I	235–280	534.97	1028.29	1952.84
Checker	245–300	545.72	1039.04	1963.59
Sardar	270–345	572.60	1065.91	1990.46
Carpenter	300–385	604.84	1098.16	2022.71
Chargeman	340–450	647.84	1141.16	2065.71

Volume of World Trade in Mica

1757. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the volume of world trade in mica during the last three years with year-wise break-up;

(b) the Indian contribution in the world trade of Mica, showing percentage for the above period, giving the export figures both in quantity and earnings and contributin of MITCO in this regard; and

(c) internal consumption of mica in the country in 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1994 and the likely consumption by 2000 AD with relevant details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Precise details of the volume of world trade in mica are not available.

(b) Total export of mica and MITCO's share therein during the last 3 years is given below :—